



**PUBLIC ART AND CULTURAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, March 26, 2015**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

*Chair Guillermo Rodriguez, Vice Chair Gwynne Rukenbrod Smith, Jennifer Bowen, Jaan Ferree, Jay Fields, Jay Miller, Robert Todd, Sharon Trammel*

**Board Members Absent:**

*Constance Richards*

**Staff in Attendance:**

*Caroline Long, Brenda Mills, Sam Powers, Basil Punsalan*

**Guests in Attendance:**

*Nathanael Roney*

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Ferree made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Bowen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Chair Rodriguez introduced the new Commissioner, Jay Miller. Mr. Miller has been working with Urban Trail Committee and teaches philosophy at Warren Wilson College, with a focus on the social role of art.

**3. PUBLIC ART IN PUBLIC PARKS PROGRAM**

The Program hopes to beautify City parks while giving emerging public artists an opportunity to use City parks facilities as a canvas. Staff has identified three mural sites: the Food Lion Skate Park concessions house; Memorial Stadium brick wall on away section; and the Walton Street Pool. Chair Rodriguez asked about the budget, and Mr. Punsalan noted that there will be a \$1,000 stipend for each project. Chair Rodriguez asked about the timeline, and Mr. Punsalan noted it would most likely be a summer program. Mr. Miller asked what the community input process would entail, and staff noted they would use comment boxes, and will be getting the word out in the community for what they would like to see or possible edits to the proposed design (survey monkey, etc). Mr. Todd noted that Montford Park restrooms mural project transformed the area. Ms. Rukenbrod Smith noted that the City could consider grant funding for supplies.

**4. CREATIVE SECTOR SUMMIT**

Ms. Mills stated that the creative Sector Summit is Friday and Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Friday is a leadership day and Saturday will focus on the artists. PACC members will attend and participate in the various workshops and group activities.

**5. STAFF'S REPORT**

**a.) Vance Monument Maintenance**

Maintenance of the monument was approved by City Council and the maintenance will begin soon. They will be removing the time capsule at 8am on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**b.) Maintenance & Repair Update**

The Urban Trail 7 mosaic was removed and the piece will be cleaned and restored before being reinstalled on the sidewalk across the street. The Lexington Ave art project area has been delineated in the 'bump outs' next to and across the street from the Local Taco. The Asheville Downtown Association has raised \$35,000 and there will be a timeline forthcoming.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Urban Trail Committee: Mr. Fields spoke with Grace Pless about how to set up interviews with original artists and possibly creating a video project. Ms. Rukenbrod Smith sees this is a possible promotional and marketing opportunity for the City of Asheville. Ms. Bowen offered to volunteer her time to photograph the pieces as a visual aid in conjunction with the interviews. Ms. Bowen noted that UNCA, AB Tech and Warren Wilson all offer opportunity for students to work on these projects at low or no-cost to the City.

Advocacy: Ms. Bowen has researched North American street art programs that are municipally supported with the goal of reducing graffiti and providing an open public space for street artists to practice and train other artists. The group is working to determine where this program would be housed within the City or whether it should be an external nonprofit that is associated with the City. If the second option were chosen, the Asheville Design Center is a great fit for the program. Ms. Bowen asked if any Commission member would be interested in joining her group, and Mr. Miller expressed interest.

Community Engagement Partnerships: Ms. Rukenbrod Smith has been working to create a talking points slideshow on the Buncombe Cultural Alliance and creative place making. She has also been working with ONABEN, who will be having a demonstration on July 15th from 10-5 at the Asheville Art Museum as a part of their entrepreneurship training.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**c.) PACC Visioning Follow-Up**

The Commissioners reviewed the vision statements that were created during the retreat last weekend and discussed how to meld the current statements together. They decided to work on the statements via e-mail and Ms. Ferree volunteered to shepherd the process. Ms. Mills noted that subcommittee reports can be shared via e-mail before the next meeting to allow the most time to discuss the vision statement at April's meeting.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**d.) Next Meeting Date Change**

The PACC will create the Nominating Committee tonight, have a meeting in April, and present a slate of officers on June 25th.

**e.) Selection of Nominating Committee**

Selection of Nominating Committee: Ms. Rukenbrod Smith nominated Mr. Todd, and Ms. Trammel and Mr. Fields volunteered to serve.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Roney introduced himself to the Commissioners and let them know of his interest in the Public Art process.

**6. ADJOURN**

Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 5:34pm